

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Figs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, and 10 that are currently on file with the new substitute Figs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, and 10 attached herewith, and in accordance with the attached Letter to the Draftsperson.

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 1, 2006 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 032906). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 2-4 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claim 1 is being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, while claims 2-4 are being amended to be in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 5-10 stand withdrawn from consideration in this application.

Additional Amendments

The specification and drawings are being amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Election/Restrictions

As the Examiner acknowledged, a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Species I, claims 1-4 during a telephone conversation with Juan Marquez on March 29, 2006.

Applicants hereby affirms that Applicants that elected the continued prosecution of the invention identified as Species I, claims 1-4, without traverse. Applicants understand that the non-elected inventions and their corresponding claims are hereby withdrawn from further consideration in this pending application. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file divisional applications on such non-elected inventions.

Formal Objections

Drawings

The drawings, particularly Figs. 1, 2 or 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10, were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p)(4).

Figs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, and 10 are being replaced with substitute Figures in which the formal errors are corrected. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. The specification is being amended as set forth above to correct formal errors. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Heinonen (US Pub. No. 2002/0169385) in view of Gorti (US Pat. No. 5,954,658).

Claim 1 is being canceled as set forth above, and therefore this rejection is moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for holding that claims 2-4 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 is being amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim with minor amendment, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 3-4 are being amended so as to depend upon claim 2, which is now an independent claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants will point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action.

Conclusion

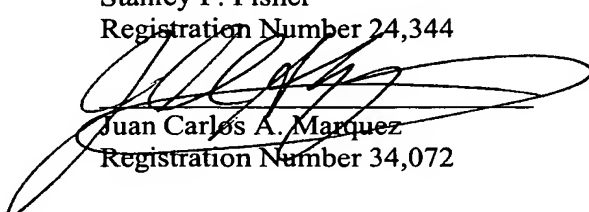
In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more

than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 1, 2006
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